(c) whether Government are contemplating any steps to reform the institution of employment exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDERA SEKHAR RAO): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Year-wise Registrations and Placements effected by the employment exchanges in the country during the last 5 years were as given below.

(In thousands)

Year	Number of Registrations made	Number of placements effected
2000	6041.9	177.7
2001	5552.6	169.2
2002	5064.0	142.6
2003	5462.9	154.9
2004	5373.0	132.6

(c) and (d) The Employment Exchanges function under the administrative and financial control of the respective State Governments/ Union Territory Administration. They provide employment assistance, career counseling and vocational guidance to the job seekers, collect Employment market information and perform other related functions depending upon the local needs and the available infrastructure.

The Government have been making efforts time and again to improve functioning of employment exchanges through the process of modernization of Employment Exchanges through computerization.

Absorption of Contract Employees

3187. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many workers are employed for a very long time on contract basis with contractors especially with Government departments;

(b) if so, whether Government propose for permanent absorption of contract employees in those departments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) There may be some instances of workers working with contractors, for a longer period for principal employers like Government Departments.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 does not contain any provision relating to regularization of such workers.

FDI Policy with regard to PIOs

3188. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 430 given in Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2005 and state:

(a) whether according to Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer of Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) Regulations, 2000 the provisions of FDI policy in domestic aviation sector also apply to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs);

(b) if so, the reasons that PIOs are not treated at par with NRIs in domestic aviation sector;

(c) whether the status of PIOs is not clearly defined by Government causing hurdles to PIOs in bringing investments in aviation sector; and

(d) if so, the steps so far taken to clear the ambiguity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the existing policy, NRIs are eligible to invest upto 100% in Air Transport Services (Domestic Airlines) under the automatic route. However, PIOs have not been able to avail this facility, as the guidelines of the Ministry of Civil Aviation stipulate that a scheduled/non-scheduled air transport operator's permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or to a company/body corporate provided, *inter-alia*, that substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals.